Executive Proclamation State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, Entrepreneurial spirit, sound business practices, community service and vision for society's future have formed the bedrock of success for South Dakota as a state and for our nation; and,

Whereas, For 100 years, those essential traits have truly characterized Wegner Auto Company in Pierre, South Dakota, and its four generations of ownership by the Wegner family; and,

Whereas, When pioneer Henry John Wegner moved from Nebraska to Pierre and opened the machine shop that became the cornerstone of a South Dakota tradition, at a time when there were just three cars in the young state's capital city, he saw a bright future when he secured the local R.E.O. franchise in 1907; and,

Whereas, In 1910, Henry added the Buick line, followed by GMC trucks in 1915, Oldsmobile in 1935, Nissan in 1977, and the combination of Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep in 1985; and,

Whereas, Henry's sons, Lester and Varro, carried forward the family's passion for the automobile business when they went to work at Wegner Auto in 1923; and,

Whereas, Hank and Tony Wegner, Varro's sons, became the third generation to be actively involved in the business in 1966, and became known as "The Action Boys" for their accomplishments and drive; and,

Whereas, The Wegner Auto Company tradition remains as strong as ever today with the fourth generation of family, Jim Wegner and Jenny Wegner, at the helm; and,

Whereas, Wegner Auto Company is the oldest family-owned Buick dealership in the world, and, 100 years young, is the longest operating dealership in our great state; and,

Whereas, Through four generations of sales, service and passion for their city and state, the Wegners truly rank at the top as South Dakota's first family in the automobile business:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2, 2007, as

WEGNER AUTO COMPANY CENTENNIAL DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fourth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest;

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State